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Department of Political Science

16 June 1975

Dear Mr Weisberg,

Thank you for your rapid reply to my enquiries. As you correctly gathered from my letter, I am rather new to the subject of political assassination and have yet to formulate a clear and tight thesis proposal. A partial explanation for this lack of focus lies in the fact that most of my graduate work was concerned with Soviet and Asian politics. Indochina was the area of particular interest to me. But with the winding down of the war, there followed a corresponding decline in the availability of research funds, my faculty advisor's interest, and my own interest. Consequently, after surviving the ordeal of comphrensive exams, I found myself in the unenviable position of not only not having research funds but also having no idea what I wanted to research. Then one night several months ago, I heard an old taped interview with several people involved with the murder of Diem when the idea of doing something with the topic of political assassination occurred to me. A few nights later, I heard Allard Lowenstein talk about the events surrounding Robert Kennedy's death and the subject of political assassination gained in its appeal for me. And finally, the recent news regarding the CIA involvement in political assassinations clinched my interest in the topic.

I must admit the current craze of criticizing the Warren Commission brought my attention back to a past interest in John Kennedy's death. The late President was a friend of my

father's, so my interest in his murder was always more personal than academic. After his death, I read the single volume condemsation of the Warren Commission findings and was dissatisfied as so many questions seemed both unasked and unanswered. But with time, my interest moved on to other things. Now, as I look about at the number of books on the subject, I see that a lot of people had similar doubts and questions.

Actually, I was quite amazed at the amount of material in print criticizing the findings of the Warren Commission, the events surrounding JFK's death, etc. Since the O'Toole book was the latest and most accessible one out, I picked it up. About a quarter of the way through it, I regretted that I hadn't spent the money instead on a lobster dinner. I did get a second hand copy of Edward Jay Epstein's Inquest. I'm about half way through it and find it most interesting. It seems to merit a second and closer reading.

I made some half-hearted attempts to acquire a copy of Sylvia Meagher's book before you wrote of it to me. Now that I know that it is worth the effort, I will really try to get a hold of it as well as Howard Roffman's book.

Although the Cambridge Assaasination Information Bureau makes its headquarters within walking distance of my house, I haven't gotten in touch with any of them. From what I've heard, they are a cocky clique, who amuse themselves with assassination theories now that the anti-war movement has ceased. Possibly, I'm making a premature judgement on them but that's my initial impression. Also, I don't think I'd be able to work with them since I'm a bit too strong-willed to accept pack discipline and

collective intelligence.

Getting back to the subject of my dissertation, my faculty advisor will probably approve of most any aspect of assassination as a thesis topic just as long as it does not come out sounding like a who-done-it. Also since he is more interested in his own work than directing my thesis, that gives me both the advantage of leeway and the disadvantage of little direction. Getting my department's approval may prove a bit more difficult as they correctly suspect my interest in journalism rather than in academics. But I'll worry about all that once I have a clear idea in my own mind of what I want to do. Since my chances of getting funded are nil, I figure I better find a thesis topic that I really want to do, since I'm paying for it myself.

I thumbed through your Whitewash IV but decided not to read it until after I've read a bit more on the Warren Commission- that will probably be next week. I would also like to read the first two volumes in the series and am enclosing a check for the sum of $12.50 to cover the cost . Could you again please send the two books to my home address: 9 Shepard Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Nancy-Stephanie Stone

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